

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: FINANCE

DATE: JULY 8, 2015

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS CONOVER
TAYLOR
SOKOL
MONROE
KENNY
MERLINO
FRASIER
DICKINSON

OTHERS PRESENT:

MIKE SWAN, COUNTY TREASURER
KEVIN GERAGHTY, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
MARTIN AUFFREDOU, COUNTY ATTORNEY
AMANDA ALLEN, CLERK OF THE BOARD
PAUL DUSEK, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
FRANK THOMAS, BUDGET OFFICER
SUPERVISORS BROCK
SEEBER
SIMPSON

COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT:

SUPERVISOR WOOD

REPRESENTING THE WARREN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE:

BUD YORK, SHERIFF
J.R. DIAMOND, SENIOR BUILDING MAINTENANCE MECHANIC
MIKE COLVIN, DIRECTOR, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
BRIAN LAFLURE, FIRE COORDINATOR/DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES
JEFFERY TENNYSON, SUPERINTENDENT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
DON LEHMAN, *THE POST STAR*
SARAH MCLENITHAN, DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD

Mr. Conover called the meeting of the Finance Committee to order at 9:24 a.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Dickinson, seconded by Mrs. Frasier and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the prior Committee meeting, subject to the Clerk of the Board.

Copies of the meeting Agenda were distributed to the Committee members and a copy of same is on file with the meeting minutes.

Commencing the Agenda review with Section III, Item 1, Mr. Conover addressed a request to authorize transfers of funds, as included in the Agenda packet for Committee approval.

Motion was made by Mr. Dickinson, seconded by Mr. Sokol and carried unanimously to approve the request and the necessary resolution was authorized for the July 17th Board Meeting.

In regards to Agenda Item 2, Mr. Conover reported there were no requests from the County Treasurer's Office. Mike Swan, *County Treasurer*, interjected that although he had not included it on the Agenda, he would like to address the Committee regarding an unanticipated resignation of a Senior Account Clerk in his Office yesterday. He apologized for not providing the Committee with more notice and information regarding the position; however, he noted, he was requesting authorization to fill the vacant position. He stated subsequent to his discussions this morning with Paul Dusek, *County Administrator*, and Chairman Geraghty, he had determined it was not in the best interest for his Office to fill the position on a temporary basis, as he believed this would make it more difficult to fill the position. He noted he felt the position was critical for his Office to continue to operate effectively. He suggested as an alternative to filling the position on a temporary basis that the staffing in his Office could be re-evaluated in regards to one of positions in the Payroll Department when Westmount Health Facility sold. He explained that a large portion of the workload for the Payroll Department would decrease when the sale of the Facility was finalized; therefore, he stated, he believed this would be a good time to re-evaluate the positions. He noted at this point there would be about a \$4,000 savings to the Budget due to a decrease in longevity pay for the employee who had resigned.

Mr. Dusek thanked Mr. Swan for providing an alternative; he noted he felt this was the best course of action to take at this time. He indicated since there was a demonstrated need for the position, he was comfortable recommending that the Committee move forward with approving the position.

Motion was made by Mr. Dickinson, seconded by Mrs. Frasier and carried unanimously to approve the request as presented.

Moving on to Agenda Item 3, Mr. Conover outlined a referral from the County Facilities Committee, *Buildings & Grounds*, requesting to determine a source of funding for Clark Patterson Lee Task 4A, *Development of Temporary Family Courtroom Plans and Specifications*, in an amount not to exceed \$30,000. Mr. Dusek recommended that the source of funding be a transfer from the Contingent Fund, as there was an ample amount of funding available to cover this expense.

Mr. Conover asked Jeffery Tennyson, *Superintendent of the Department of Public Works*, whether it had been determined how much of the cost of the temporary measures would be covered under the bond and Mr. Tennyson replied affirmatively. He explained that because the \$30,000 cost was specific to the temporary measures none of it could be covered under the bond. He added some of the prior expenses incurred proceeding May 15th would be covered under the bond.

Motion was made by Mr. Monroe, seconded by Mr. Taylor and carried unanimously to approve the request as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the July 17th Board Meeting.

Agenda Item 4A-B, Mr. Conover announced, pertained to a referrals from the Human Services Committee, *Employment & Training*, which he proceeded to outline, as follows:

- 4A) Request to amend the County Budget to create Fund 41, *Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act (WIOA)*, in the amount of \$701,110 and to appropriate the annual allocation of Title I Funds for the WIOA 2015 program year.

In response to a question posed by Mr. Dickinson, Mr. Dusek explained this funding was allocated to the Employment & Training Administration by the Federal Government.

Motion was made by Mrs. Frasier, seconded by Mr. Sokol and carried unanimously to approve the request and the necessary resolution was authorized for the July 17th Board Meeting.

- 4B) Request to amend the County Budget to increase revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$6,108 to reflect the receipt of unanticipated funding through the Federal Trade Adjustment Act for the training of one dislocated worker.

Motion was made by Mr. Dickinson, seconded by Mr. Taylor and carried unanimously to approve the request and the necessary resolution was authorized for the July 17th Board Meeting.

Continuing to Agenda Item 5, Mr. Conover outlined the referrals from the Public Safety Committee: ***Office of Emergency Services -***

- 5A) Request to amend the County Budget to increase revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$40,649 to reflect the receipt of FY14 Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness grant funds.

Motion was made by Mr. Dickinson, seconded by Mr. Merlino and carried unanimously to approve the request and the necessary resolution was authorized for the July 17th Board Meeting.

- 5B) Request for a Contingent Fund transfer totaling \$8,500 to support the costs of installing communications equipment in Office of Emergency Services' vehicles.

Brian LaFlure, *Director, Office of Emergency Services/Fire Coordinator*, apprised that the transfer was needed for the installation of communication equipment in the OES vehicles. He reported that the part-time Fire and EMS (*Emergency Medical Services*) Coordinators utilized their personal vehicles to respond to calls; therefore, he advised, his Department was responsible for installing the equipment in their vehicles so they could respond to emergencies. He continued, he had done the work himself in the past and that was the reason it was never included in the budget; however, he said, due to time restraints he was no longer able to do so. He added the County Attorney had rendered a determination that it was not permissible for County employees to work on personal vehicles. He indicated the funds would be used to pay the radio contractor for the County (*Capital Digitronics*) to complete the work.

Mr. Dickinson queried whether Mr. LaFlure had received a price quote from Capital Digitronics for the work and he replied in the negative. He said Capital Digitronics had a contract with the County which specifically stated the hourly rate they charged. He stated he believed through his calculations that the work could be completed for an amount equal to or less than \$8,500. Mr. Monroe questioned how many radios would be installed and Mr. LaFlure replied the cost was for the installation of the equipment in 5 vehicles, as well as work on the Communications Vehicle. He reiterated that he was unable to complete the installs himself due time restraints.

Motion was made by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Merlino and carried unanimously to approve the request and the necessary resolution was authorized for the July 17th Board Meeting.

Mr. Conover advised Agenda Item 6 included a referral from the Public Works Committee, *Parks, Recreation & Railroad*, requesting to amend the County Budget to reflect the receipt of a \$1,800 donation to Up Yonda Farm Environmental Education Center from Daniel R. Lewis. *Note: The Public Works Committee previously authorized the Chairman of the Board to forward a letter of appreciation for this donation.*

Motion was made by Mr. Dickinson, seconded by Mr. Sokol and carried unanimously to approve the request as presented and the necessary resolution was authorized for the July 17th Board Meeting.

Proceeding to Agenda Item 7, referral from the Real Property Tax Services Committee, Mr. Conover outlined a request to appropriate \$2,000 from the Environmental Testing Reserve Fund (A893.00) to Budget Code A.1355 470 (*Real Property Tax Service Agency, Contract*) to support the Phase I environmental testing for Town of Warrensburg Tax Map Parcel No. 211.13-3-35. Mr. Swan advised that there was a sufficient amount of funding available to cover the cost. He said Martin Auffredou, *County Attorney*, was in the process of seeking Temporary Incidents of Ownership under the provisions of the Environmental Conservation Law to allow for further environmental inspection to be completed legally.

Mr. Conover reminded the Committee that the Environmental Testing Reserve Fund (A893.00) was established a few years ago to deal with properties the County had foreclosed upon where environmental issues were suspected. He said the fund allowed them to investigate whether there were environmental issues and if so re-mediate and return them to productive properties that could be sold at the County auction. He commented he felt the use of the fund had been very effective thus far.

Motion was made by Mr. Monroe, seconded by Mr. Merlino and carried unanimously to approve the request as presented and the necessary resolution was authorized for the July 17th Board Meeting.

Mr. Conover advised Agenda Items 8A-C included referrals from the Sheriff's Office, as follows:

- 8A) Request for a Contingent Fund transfer in the amount of \$20,558.32 to provide funding for replacement of a 400-gallon hot water storage tank for the Corrections Facility Kitchen. *This request was not reviewed by the Public Safety Committee.*

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Monroe, Mr. Auffredou advised upon further review of the tank by

himself, Sheriff York, Shawn Lamouree, *Undersheriff*, and J.R. Diamond, *Senior Building Maintenance Mechanic*, it became clear that the replacement of the tank was an emergency situation which allowed for the bidding process to be bypassed. He explained that the tank was leaking into the room below that was utilized by the staff. He added it was evident even to an untrained person such as himself that the tank was in dire condition and needed to be replaced immediately.

Mr. Diamond reported that they had utilized the services of a current County contractor to perform the work. He said the contractor determined that the tank which stored hot water for the Corrections's Facility Kitchen was leaking in 6 different locations. He mentioned the tank was replaced by two 200 gallon hot water tanks that were side by side and could be isolated if an issue were to occur with one of them.

Motion was made by Mrs. Frasier, seconded by Mr. Kenny and carried unanimously to approve the request as presented and the necessary resolution was authorized for the July 17th Board Meeting.

- 8B) Request for a Contingent Fund transfer in the amount of \$25,963 to provide funding for the replacement of HVAC damper controls at the Warren County Correctional Facility. *This request was not reviewed by the Public Safety Committee.*

Mr. Conover felt it was pertinent to remind everyone that all requests should be reviewed and approved by their regular oversight Committees prior to presenting them to the Finance Committee, except in cases such as these that related to emergency repairs which were unavoidable.

Mr. Dickinson questioned whether the replacement of the HVAC damper controls was unanticipated and Mr. Diamond replied affirmatively. He explained that although regular maintenance was performed on them there was no way to predict how long they would last, as some lasted for years while others required replacement rather quickly. He stated when they were not working properly outside air would be cooled that did not need to be.

Sheriff York noted that they had discussed the repair with the Chairman of the Public Safety Committee. Mr. Auffredou added that he believed another quote had been received on this repair and the contract was awarded to Trane Company, which had a history of completing other work at the Correctional Facility. He mentioned this was an elaborate system that had the potential to create some air quality issues, which he was concerned about for purposes of the staff and inmate population there. He said although they had not reviewed the request with the Public Safety Committee, they had discussed it with the Chairperson of that Committee who was aware that the next step was to request approval from the Finance Committee.

Motion was made by Mr. Monroe, seconded by Mr. Merlino and carried unanimously to approve the request as presented and the necessary resolution was authorized for the July 17th Board Meeting.

- 8C) Request for resolution in opposition to New York state Assembly Bill No. A6430 which represents an unfunded mandate.

Sheriff York advised he felt it was pertinent that the Committee was aware of this matter, as it related to yet another unfunded mandate for jails. He said the proposed resolution included in the Agenda packet was created by the Counsel for the Correctional Association of New York State. He mentioned a number of the Sheriff's in New York State had presented this resolution to their Legislature for non-support of the proposed Bill. He stated he was taken aback by how much involvement the State was seeking over jails, as the proposed Bill would require every Facility in the State to report in writing on an annual basis to the Governor, the temporary President of the Senate, the Minority Leader of the Senate, the Speaker of the Assembly, the Minority Leader of the Assembly, the Chairperson of the Senate Crime Victims, the Crime and Correction Committee and the Chairperson of the Assembly

Correction Committee every time the facility used restraints on a pregnant inmate. He reported their Facility had never had this problem but this was something that would have a major impact on the larger Correctional Facilities across the State. He stated he had no issue if the Committee determined they did not want to take action on this matter; however, he reiterated, he wanted to ensure they were informed of it.

Mr. Conover questioned whether Mr. Monroe felt this was an appropriate matter for the Legislative & Rules Committee to discuss and he replied affirmatively. He said he felt the Legislative Rules Committee could discuss whether they felt this matter warranted further action. He asked whether the County Jail had ever had an issue such as this and Sheriff York replied in the negative. He stated during his tenure as Sheriff there had never been a circumstance where restraints were required on a pregnant inmate. He mentioned that he worked in conjunction with the District Attorney's Office to release pregnant inmates on their own recognizance unless the crime they committed was heinous. He noted during his tenure, no births had occurred at their Facility. He commented the proposed Bill would have more of an impact on the larger county jails and State facilities, such as Bedford Hills.

Mr. Conover queried whether this Legislation was presently being considered and Sheriff York replied affirmatively. Mr. Monroe pointed out although the current Legislative session had ended the bill could be discussed during the next round. Sheriff York noted it was discharged expeditiously through Committees of both the Assembly and Senate wherein various entities were not given the opportunity to comment.

Motion was made by Mr. Monroe, seconded by Mr. Merlino and carried unanimously to refer the matter to the Legislative & Rules Committee for further discussion.

Agenda Item 9, Mr. Conover announced, pertained to a referral from the Social Services Committee, *Department of Social Services*, requesting to amend the County Budget to increase revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$17,885 to reflect the receipt of unanticipated State funding for the Special Delinquency Prevention Program.

Motion was made by Mr. Dickinson, seconded by Mr. Taylor and carried unanimously to approve the request as presented and the necessary resolution was authorized for the July 17th Board Meeting.

Mr. Conover announced that Agenda Item 10 included a referral from the Support Services Committee, *Information Technology*, requesting to appropriate funds from the Computer Reserve Fund, A.895.00, to Budget Codes A.1680 220.1, *Information Technology, Office Equipment Reserve*, (\$65,899) and A.6010 220, *Social Services, Office Equipment*, (\$18,369).

Motion was made by Mr. Sokol and seconded by Mrs. Frasier to approve the request.

Ms. Seeber questioned when licenses were purchased if they were obtained on a County-wide basis, rather than just for a specific department, to save some money and Mr. Dusek replied that he was unsure of the answer. He surmised they were acquiring the licenses in an appropriate manner but noted the Director of Information Technology could attend a future meeting to explain the process. Ms. Seeber interjected that she felt Mr. Dusek misunderstood her question, as she was not indicating the licenses were being purchased inappropriately but rather was there a way they could save some money by purchasing licenses to cover the entire County rather than for each department. Mr. Dusek apprised he presumed this was being done but reiterated they could invite Mike Colvin, *Director, Information Technology*, to a future meeting to better explain the process.

Mr. Dickinson suggested they table the request until the next Committee meeting so that Mr. Colvin could better explain the process since there was a significant amount of money involved. Mr. Dusek commented he was concerned with tabling this item, as Mr. Colvin only made requests that were critical

in terms of the computer functions and programs used by the County. He mentioned it may cause an issue if computers were unable to operate without purchasing the required licenses. Mr. Conover queried whether Mr. Dusek felt delaying a decision until the August 12th Finance Committee meeting would be an issue and Mr. Dusek replied that it could cause problems because the IT Department was continuously working on upgrading the County's computer systems; however, he noted, he could not confirm such was the case in this instance. He reiterated his concern about delaying the request until next month, as he was confident that Mr. Colvin would not have made the request unless it was necessary. He recommended approving the request as presented with the understanding that Mr. Colvin would attend the July 17th Board Meeting to explain the need for this action, rather than tabling it for another month. He assured the Committee that Mr. Colvin was very efficient and trustworthy. Mr. Dickinson commented that while he appreciated Mr. Dusek's concerns, it raised the issue of why no one was in attendance to address the concerns.

Ms. Seeber stated her inquiry was by no means meant to question Mr. Colvin's character or to assume he was not doing what was required of him; however, she pointed out, the resolution request form stated that the "*licenses were in use but not paid for*". She continued, she did not believe this was something that would stop the course of business if it were delayed until further explanation could be provided.

A brief discussion ensued following which Mr. Conover noted that Mr. Colvin had been called to the meeting and the request would be revisited when he arrived.

Continuing, Mr. Conover advised that Mr. Thomas would be addressing Agenda Items 11A-B, which consisted of the following requests from the Warren County Soil & Water Conservation District (District):

- 11A) Request for a source of funding to support the purchase a vacuum excavator at a cost of \$109,000, with all funds to be reimbursed through the NYSDEC Water Quality Improvement Grant received by the District.
- 11B) Request for the appropriation of up to \$15,000 from the vehicle reserve fund to replace the District's 2001 Dodge pickup.

Mr. Thomas distributed a copy of a letter addressed to Mr. Tennyson and Kevin Hajos, *Deputy Superintendent of Public Works*, from Jim Lieberum, *District Manager*, detailing request 11A; *a copy of which is on file with the minutes*. He explained that the District was awarded a Water Quality Improvement grant from the NYS DEC (*New York State Department of Environmental Conservation*) in the amount of \$180,000 of which \$109,000 would be used to purchase a vacuum excavator. He stated the vacuum excavator would be utilized by the County DPW, as well as the municipalities to vacuum out catch basins, culverts and storm water infrastructures. He explained since the District did not have \$109,000 in funding available to make the purchase they were requesting that the County provide the money with the understanding that it would be returned to the County when the reimbursing grant funds were received.

Mr. Dickinson questioned how much funding the District needed to make this purchase and Mr. Thomas replied that the request was for \$109,000, which was the total price for the vacuum excavator. He apprised that the grant received a 25% local share through in-kind services. Mr. Conover clarified that the request was for the County to advance \$109,000, of which would be reimbursed.

Mr. Dickinson mentioned that the Town and Village of Lake George shared a similar piece of equipment. He commented it was an absolute necessity in order to maintain any kind of storm water system and he stated he was in favor of approving the request.

In regards to the request for an appropriation of up to \$15,000 to purchase a new vehicle, Mr. Thomas

stated the District had a history of purchasing their own vehicles; however, he noted, due to budget restraints they were no longer able to do so without some additional financial assistance. He apprised they had about \$10,000 in funding available to put towards the total cost of a new vehicle to replace the 2001 Dodge pickup. He mentioned subsequent to receiving the request it was determined that there was only \$6,000 available in the County vehicle reserve fund; therefore, he advised, he was requesting the remaining \$9,000 be provided through a Contingent Fund transfer.

Mr. Dickinson indicated that he felt the District was an asset to the County, as they provided a number of essential services and he was fully supportive of both requests. Mr. Brock commented that he was unsure how any municipality could do without a vacuum excavator, as the City of Glens Falls had purchased one a few years ago and it had become a valuable asset to them.

Mr. Thomas noted that the District would be transferring ownership of the equipment to the County DPW after 3 years. Mr. Conover commented that he did not think there was a more valuable organization to the municipalities and the County than the District, as they had a history of providing outreach and assistance across an entire range of subjects. Mr. Thomas thanked Mr. Conover for his acknowledgment and advised he would relay the message to Mr. Lieberum and his staff.

Motion was made by Mr. Dickinson, seconded by Mr. Merlino and carried unanimously to approve the requests as outlined above and the necessary resolutions were authorized for the July 17th Board Meeting.

Mr. Conover reported Agenda Item 12 referred to the Journal Report identifying transfers authorized by the County Administrator, as required by the Committee. Mr. Dusek indicated that most of the transfers listed were small, with the exception of one for \$5,000 in DPW due to a budgeting error. He mentioned the abundant amount of transfers for the Employment & Training Administration related to balancing the budget for the end of their fiscal year. The \$2,800 transfer for the IT Department, he said, was necessary to purchase new chairs due to a recommendation by Needham Rick Management Resource Group, LLC as a result of employee complaints. He stated the transfer of \$16,000 for Public Health was a result of ensuring a sufficient amount of funding was available in the accounts. He reported the \$45,000 transfer for the Sheriff's Department related to the purchase of the tanks and controls that were discussed earlier in the meeting.

Mr. Conover requested that Mr. Dusek explain Agenda Item 12B which consisted of the following: Proposal to accept \$10,000 in funding from the AGC (*Adirondack Gateway Council*) for a study of gaps in cell and broadband coverage. He pointed out the notation included in the Agenda that this funding was just recently offered and there was a time limitation for acceptance.

Mr. Dusek advised that this matter was brought to his attention yesterday by Mr. LaFlure. He said Mr. LaFlure had indicated there was an opportunity to obtain \$10,000 from the AGC for a study relative to closing gaps in cell and broadband coverage in Warren County. He said Ed Bartholomew, *President, Warren County EDC (Economic Development Corporation)*, indicated to him and Mr. LaFlure that he had to commit the money to the County by Friday if they wanted it or it would have to be returned to the HUD Grant. He apprised that if the County were to accept the funding they would be required to use it to pay for a contractor to complete a study that reviewed gaps in cell phone and broadband coverage in the County. He stated that Mr. LaFlure had pointed out to him that Washington County performed a survey to acquire the information they required on the coverage at a cost of about \$11,000, which was slightly more than the funding that would be provided. He surmised that Warren County may be required to fund a portion of the study, as he felt there was a chance the cost would be more than \$10,000. He advised it would be necessary to do a bid, or work with a current County contractor such as Televate, to complete the study.

Mr. LaFlure reported per Chairman Geraghty's request he had been representing the County on the AGC in relation to broadband due to his knowledge on the matter. He stated this request related to the \$500 million grant program that would be offered through the State. He said the AGC hired a contractor to put together an application on behalf of this region which covered Warren, Washington and Northern Saratoga Counties. He continued, in order to put together a successful application they required more specific and quantifiable data regarding the coverage within the County. He said this would be similar to the work Televate did to determine the issues with radio coverage for emergency services in the County; however, he noted, it was a different type of system. He apprised if Warren County were to agree to complete this study it would assist them with putting together a stronger application for a portion of the \$500 million in grant funding available through the State to make improvements to broadband and cell coverage within the three Counties.

In regards to the cost of the survey, Mr. LaFlure anticipated it would be similar to the \$11,000 study Washington County had commissioned. He mentioned he felt it was necessary for the County to participate in the grant application since it would provide beneficial information to them and the majority of the cost would be paid for through the funding from the AGC.

Mr. Taylor questioned whether the internal study completed by the Planning Department a few years ago regarding cell coverage in the County could be used to reduce the cost of the study and Mr. LaFlure replied in the negative. He explained it was relayed to him that because it had been several years since the study had been completed, the information obtained from it was no longer applicable due to the changes in technology and equipment. He said the information required of this study was more technical and involved than that of the previous study.

Mr. Dickinson mentioned that while campaigning he had been shocked by the number of areas in the Town of Lake George with little to no cell phone coverage. He added this proved that it was not just the Towns of Stony Creek and Thurman that lacked cell service in Warren County; therefore, he said, he felt it was necessary for the study to be completed.

In response to a question by Mr. Conover, Mr. LaFlure advised there were no matching funds required. Mr. Dusek informed he felt it was pertinent for the Committee to understand that there was a significant chance the study would not be covered by the \$10,000; therefore, he stated, the County would be required to come up with additional funds.

Mr. Brock asked what the next step would be once the study was completed and Mr. LaFlure replied that the information compiled would be included in the grant application was put together on behalf of the 3 Counties. He stated the main goal was to be awarded a portion of the \$500 million in funding set aside by the State for the purpose of improving broadband and cell coverage. Mr. Brock queried if the awards would be based upon need and Mr. LaFlure responded they would be based upon improving broadband and cell phone coverage in the State to assist with attracting new businesses. He added that Washington County had sent a flyer to every single post office address in their County asking individuals to respond to determine what services, if any, were available in their ,as well as to identify which providers offered services and the quality thereof. He mentioned in the two weeks since they had mailed the 31,000 surveys, over 2,000 responses had been received. He stated the information received from these surveys thus far had been very informative, as some individuals had indicated businesses had chosen not to relocate to their area due to lack of service. He noted Washington County had substantially more need for coverage than Warren County, as they had a much larger area with no coverage.

Mr. Conover commented he believed completing this survey would assist the County with better communicating their needs to the State and Mr. LaFlure concurred. He apprised of a program that would be forthcoming through the Federal Government called First Net. He said this program had commenced to provide public safety broadband that every emergency responder would have secure access to over a secure public safety network. He mentioned this system would require enough

coverage to generate a signal. He explained this was why the State was performing their own survey regarding coverage.

Mr. Monroe advised one concern he was aware of was that the funding would be disbursed to metropolitan areas where there were more under-served customers. He commented he believed it was important for the County to take the position that the focus should be on areas that had no coverage. He said a study such as this would be critical to supporting this stance. Mr. LaFlure mentioned that at the first meeting he attended regarding First Net the representatives of the Federal Government had indicated that the northeastern portion of the State did not need coverage because it was just woods. He emphasized the importance of ensuring that these representatives were informed of how vital coverage was to the County in terms of attracting tourists, businesses, etc.

Mr. Monroe noted another challenge was that this was the only region in New York S where a State policy dictated the height of a towers. He said this made it difficult to have more than one provider utilize a tower that could be no higher than the tree line. He stated since the State was responsible for a portion of the lack of coverage in the Adirondacks and they were requesting that improvements be made, they should be liable for the costs to improve the coverage.

Mr. LaFlure pointed out due to the recent prison break in Dannemora, New York, the State and Federal Agencies that responded were more aware of the lack of coverage. He stated that during the search for the escapees they realized there was little to no coverage in the woods for the 11,000 responders that were involved with the search. He stated they would be bringing this to the Governor's attention, as it concerned public safety.

Motion was made by Mr. Sokol, seconded by Mr. Merlino and carried unanimously to authorize acceptance of the \$10,000 from the AGC to fund a study of gaps in cell and broadband coverage and authorizing the Chairman of the Board to sign any necessary related documents in a form approved by the County Attorney. The necessary resolution was authorized for the July 17th Board Meeting.

In reference to Agenda Item 11A, Mr. Conover requested that Mr. Dusek clarify which source of funding the \$109,000 would be advanced from for the District to purchase the vacuum excavator and Mr. Dusek replied that it should be transferred from the General Fund Unappropriated Surplus. Mr. Conover called for a motion stating such.

Motion was made by Mr. Dickinson, seconded by Mr. Merlino and carried unanimously to approve an appropriation in the amount of \$109,000 from the General Fund Unappropriated Surplus to the Warren County Soil & Water Conservation District Budget to support the purchase of a vacuum excavator, with all funds to be reimbursed through the NYSDEC Water Quality Improvement Grant. The necessary resolution was authorized for the July 17th Board Meeting.

Concluding the Agenda review, Mr. Conover announced Item 12 pertained to Finance Committee action which was required on the following items as approved by the Personnel Committee: Personnel Agenda Item 2.

Mr. Merlino questioned what this request related to, as he had missed this portion of the meeting and Mr. Conover responded that it related to a referral from the Public Works Committee, requesting ratifying authorization for Maja A. Tiokinska-Scroggins, *DPW Senior Account Clerk*, to enroll in job-related courses, as well as to authorize reimbursement for 50% of the course costs.

Motion was made by Mr. Dickinson, seconded by Mr. Sokol and carried unanimously to approve the request and the necessary resolution was authorized for the July 17th Board Meeting.

Returning to Agenda Item 10, Ms. Seeber asked Mr. Colvin to explain the request further so she could have a better understanding of it. Mr. Colvin informed that the licenses were purchased for the County, not for each individual Department. Ms. Seeber questioned whether the request related only to the DSS (*Department of Social Services*) and Mr. Colvin replied in the negative. He explained that the portion of the request for DSS related to the purchase of new computers, as they were included on the State system for licensing. He pointed out the County had not purchased new licenses in 10 years and therefore were long overdue in order to upgrade. He mentioned because the Westmount Health Facility was being sold they were able to obtain a lower price for the licenses. He noted in order to be compliant they had to have the proper licenses in place by the end of the year.

Mr. Conover noted there was a motion on the floor approving this item, as made by Mr. Sokol and seconded by Mrs. Frasier. As there was no further discussion on the matter, Mr. Conover called the question and the motion carried unanimously as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the July 17th Board Meeting.

There being no further business to come before the Finance Committee, on motion made by Mr. Sokol and seconded by Mr. Taylor, Mr. Conover adjourned the meeting at 10:24 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah McLenithan, Deputy Clerk of the Board